

Dear East Woods Family and Friends~

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:3-6

As June begins, it feels really natural to echo the sentiments the Apostle Paul shared with the congregation in Philippi in the 1st Century. Since the writing of last month's newsletter, I've felt so thankful for some recent ways our partnership in the gospel has been good news.

On one hand, you have responded to my call to Chaplaincy in the Navy Reserves with admirable grace and support. Thank you for participating in my commissioning on Pentecost Sunday and helping to make this new ministry manageable and exciting. On another hand, so many of you extended remarkable hospitality and support to the Azusa Pacific University Bel Canto Women's Choir surrounding their concert at East Woods on May 8. Many of the choir members told me their visit with us was their favorite stop during the Pacific Northwest Tour. Those two examples alone continue to strengthen my confidence that, when God begins a work among the men and women of East Woods, He is always faithful in bringing to glorious completion.

In June, we'll celebrate some other ways God is completing good works He began. Three of our current Ruling Elders are completing terms of outstanding service this month: Jim Bangert, Carol Domench and Peggy Konzek. We'll recognize their service, dismiss them with honors, and elect some new Ruling Elders at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 7. Also, several of our high school students are graduating this month, and we'll honor their accomplishment as part of Graduate Sunday on June 14. Finally, at the end of June, Roberta will host her final Vacation Bible School as our wonderful Director of Children and Family Ministries. VBS takes place from June 22-26, and we'll take some time toward the end of the month to recognize Roberta's retirement and celebrate her years of ministry among us. I'm thankful for both her great leadership *and* for the fact that she's still planning to be part of the East Woods congregation going forward. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Other special celebrations during June include Father's Day on June 21 and our Annual All Church Picnic at the Lake on June 28, which we hope will include some first-time or renewal baptisms.

As you can see, there are plenty of reasons to be joyful and thankful in June. I hope you'll choose to be a part of each of these exciting reflections of God's faithfulness and love.

In Christ~ Bill

CHILDREN AND FAMILY
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



MONDAY – FRIDAY JUNE 22-26
5 PM– 8 PM

Inviting children ages 4 – Grade 5
\$10/child, \$25/family
East Woods children, family, friends and neighbors ...
come join us for this important outreach ministry!

We need you to:

- spread the word
- assemble building decorations
- create name tags
- help with registration/check-in
- shepherd children through VBS week
partner with activity leaders
- show hospitality to visiting families
- be a prayer warrior

Sign up at the Opportunities Table!

THIS SUMMER ... *Help our elementary students get acquainted with...*



FOOD IN THE BIBLE

Calling all Foodies (spouses, parent and child, or buddies) ...

- You can chose from lessons about some of Israel's **Seven Species**: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, olives, pomegranates and dates.
- At the heart of each lesson is the **Recipe**... *including* Gideon's Barley Cakes, Flavored Olive Oil, Date Nut Halvah Balls, Haroset, or Cinnamon Cheese Spread.
- If you love to work with food ... pick a Sunday and a lesson (or two) that you would like to share with the students.
- We'll provide everything you need ... including all ingredients and supplies, plus displays about the main recipe ingredient and a related Bible story.

Sign up at the Opportunities Table!

Blessings—*Roberta Schlechter*
Director, Children & Family Ministry

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Recent Activities:

- Worship Night—**Friday, May 15** - 90 minutes of prayer, singing, and reflection.
- Campfire Party—**Saturday, May 23**

Youth Group Upcoming Events:

- **Hospitality Sunday, June 7**—Youth Commission and Students will host Gathering Sunday with a pancake breakfast after the service.
- **Graduation Sunday, June 14**—We will celebrate graduation with our large group of graduating High School Seniors.
- **Wild Waves, Thursday, July 2**—We will take a day trip to Wild Waves in Federal Way, WA.

Also coming up:

Jeff Kennedy began leading a “**God and Church**” **P.R.A.Y. program**, on May 21 that runs for 7 weeks. The schedule will have to be modified slightly to avoid conflicts with VBS and the Wild Waves trip. This program is open to all youth in grades 5-8, whether they are a member of East Woods, a member of another church, or not a church member or regular attendee.

Chase Van Epps
Youth Director



ALL-CHURCH PICNIC AND BAPTISM CELEBRATION

We hope you'll reserve the date of **Sunday, June 28,**
12:00 – 2:30 PM, for this year's
All-Church Picnic and Baptism Celebration.

After the morning worship service, we'll be heading over to Fallen Leaf Lake Park in Camas for a great day of fellowship, food, and fun. The park will be all ours for the day, and includes a covered picnic shelter with tables and a grill, a large grassy area, a volleyball court, and easy access to the lake for swimming. After lunch, we'll celebrate all those who would like to experience a first-time baptism or a renewal of baptismal vows. Contact **Pastor Bill** if you'd like to be baptized.

Schedule:

Noon – 12:45 **Gathering and Lunch**
12:45 – 1:00 **Songs at the Picnic Ground**
1:00 – 1:30 **Testimonies, Baptisms and Prayer at the Lake**
1:30 – 2:30 **Interactive Scavenger Hunt, Water Balloon Toss,
and Pie Eating Contest**

SHEPHERDS

Recently East Woods held a *Meet Your Shepherd Sunday*. Hopefully, most of you had an opportunity to do just that. However, things change and we are growing. We have new members coming into the church and we are all thankful for that! For those new to East Woods, you will soon be assigned to one of the Shepherds and he/she will contact you to get acquainted.

As a reminder, Shepherds are the individuals who:

- check on those members who have not come to church regularly
- make phone calls to check on members
- visit shut ins
- provide meals and/or transportation if needed after a serious illness or surgery
- visit flock members if they are in the hospital
- occasionally pick up medications for a member or shop for needed items
- connect flock members who have (or develop) long-term support needs with the community services and resources which can provide these.

The Shepherds also facilitate the Prayer Chain and send birthday wishes to our regular attendees.

Within this ministry there are many opportunities to serve and we need help. Could you help with any of the above or, best of all, have a flock of your own? In addition, we are seeking someone with a computer who can assist in recording (in a developed format), weekly church attendance and email it to the Shepherds.

Please consider joining us in this Congregational Care Ministry in any way you feel called. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 6 PM at McMenamins, across 162nd Ave. from East Woods.

If you have questions please ask any of us; we would love to talk with you. For more information, call or email **Lynne Combs**, Elder of Congregational Care

at **360-907-4748** or LynneC@orthoportland.com .

Or ask any of the **Shepherds**:

Nancy Dean

Judy England

Michael Grimes

Janet Luck

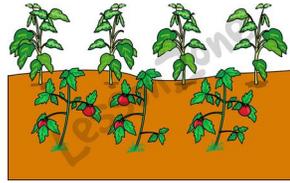
Ronda Peterson

Gretchen Collins and Mickie Drummond (Birthday cards)

MISSION

HELP NEEDED AT MILL PLAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN.

As some of you may know, students at MPES have again planted a vegetable garden on school grounds. Many of the plants were started from seeds which the children planted and have been tending for the past few weeks. Hopefully, most of the veggies will be harvested when the students return to school in September. However, some help is needed while school is out for the summer. If you can spare some time and can help water the garden (maybe only once or twice), your help would be greatly appreciated. Please see or contact **Lynne Helmke**, 360-883-5651, if you can help in this way. Thank you!



Rummage Sale Planning Meeting

Thursday **June 4 at 6:30 PM.**

The Sale is scheduled for August 14-15.

JUNE CARD-MAKING

- **Tuesday, June 9**, 6 pm at Brookdale Vancouver Village Activity Room
- **Monday, June 15**, 1 pm at Molly's Craft Shack, Lawn Fun Catalog Party
- **Monday, June 22**, 1 pm at Brookdale, Fishers Landing

For more information, contact **Esther Ellis**, 891-0750.



IMPORTANT NEWS! Operation Write Home is closing at the end of 2015 due to the decrease in overseas troops. Card-Making will continue as usual until all the OWH card kits are gone and in the mail before August 1. The focus will shift to birthday cards for residents of two Brookdale facilities and cards for veterans at the VA hospital.

For more information, contact **Esther Ellis**, 891-0750.

MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on Monday, May 17, from 6:00-9:30 PM with the following highlights:

- Session approved Pastor Sperry's revised 2015 Terms of Call, which now incorporate his call to serve as a Chaplain in the Navy Reserves.
- Session revised and approved the drafted job description for a Family Ministries Director staff position that will incorporate the major responsibilities now divided between the Youth Ministries Director position and the Children and Family Ministries Director position. Applications will be received and interviews conducted during the summer and early fall. The position will officially begin on October 1, 2015.
- Gwen Wagner, Elder and Chair of the Officer Nominating Committee, reported that nominees have been selected for the three open Ruling Elder positions that become available in June with the completion of terms for Carol Domench, Jim Bangert, and Peggy Konzek. Keith Bloss has opted for reelection as the Elder of Buildings and Grounds. Session celebrated the faithful service of our graduating Elders with cake! New Ruling Elders will be elected at the June 7 Congregational Meeting.
- Session plans to meet with and receive nine applicants for membership with East Woods on Sunday, June 7, at 10 AM. The New Members will be introduced to the congregation at the 10:30 worship service that morning.
- Session welcomed David Bilby as a guest and heard David's presentation about his non-profit organization, GoConnect. GoConnect is the hub of several valuable ministries and networks in Clark County, and Session will consider sponsorship or partnership with GoConnect to be further discussed at the June Session Meeting.

A Reminder: East Woods begins our Summer Worship Schedule on **Sunday, June 21**—one service at **10:00 AM**.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Vacation Bible School—June 22-26
- All Church Picnic and Baptisms—June 28
- Annual Rummage Sale and Vendors Faire—August 14-15
- Family Camp—August 27-30

LADIES OF EAST WOODS: Please join us for
Bunco Night on **Monday, June 8 at 7 PM.**



NEW!

EAST WOODS WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Third Saturdays—8 to 9:30 AM



Saturday, June 20

Our presentation will be a talk by John Ortberg titled
"Is Christianity Unfair To Women?"



MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast is an outstanding way to grow in relationships and discipleship with other East Woods men. Each month, we enjoy a great pancake breakfast, a valuable devotion, and rich fellowship and conversation. Our next breakfast is at **7:30 AM on Saturday, June 6.** All are welcome, and newcomers are encouraged.



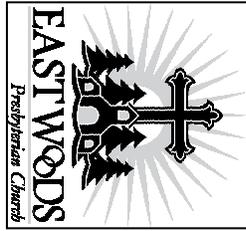
Office hours: Tuesday 1-4 PM, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM

Church Phone: 944-5841

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Rev. Bill Sperry bill@eastwoodspres.org
Roberta Schlechter Children & Family Director, childrensdirector@eastwoodspres.org
Chase Van Epps Youth Director, youthdirector@eastwoodspres.org
Susie Freeman Church Admin., susie@eastwoodspres.org

Please visit our web site at www.eastwoodspres.org



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